

Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan

Text as prepared for: Governor's Conference - Welcome

Date presented: September 27, 2002

Location: IGCS – Auditorium Indianapolis

(Text does not include verbatim comments)

Good morning! And welcome to the 10th Governor's Conference on the Environment. My name is Lori Kaplan and I am the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This conference is brought to by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It is meant to bring Hoosiers from various backgrounds together to talk about how to preserve and improve our State's natural and environmental resources. We are hopeful that your attendance today is a reflection of Hoosiers' dedication to their environment throughout our State.

The blend of Indiana's primary economic base, agriculture and heavy industry, have a unique impact on our environment. The steel plants on the shores of Lake Michigan represent the largest steel-making region in the **Western Hemisphere**. But Indiana is also a leader in agricultural production. For example, we lead the nation in the production of ducks and are second in popcorn, tomatoes, and, saving the best for last, ice cream. The one common thread for steel manufacturers as well as tomato growers is a reliance on the environment. Those great furnaces of industry on the lake need a constant water supply for their steel-making processes and a waterway to bring raw materials to the great hearths.

Likewise, Hoosier farmers need healthy, vital soil and plenty of clean water in which to grow their crops. I am proud to report that we have made tremendous progress in preserving and improving our environment, but our work is certainly not done and many challenges lay ahead.

This year we celebrate an exciting milestone - the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. This year is a true landmark in the efforts to protect our nation's water resources. It also presents an excellent opportunity to enhance public appreciation for the importance of our water resources, celebrate successes, build a better understanding of remaining challenges and solutions, and rekindle the public stewardship ethic and support for watershed protection programs. In honor of this landmark, you'll notice a water theme to many of the presentations and workshops that you'll participate in today.

We are honored to have with us today as our keynote speakers, Jim Barnes from America's Clean Water Foundation, and former Congressman Andy Jacobs. During their presentations, they'll be talking with you about their experiences in regards to the formation and development of the Clean Water Act.

We are also proud to have Indiana's delegates to the Youth Watershed Summit with us today. The Youth Watershed Summit is a national forum to bring together approximately 200 students and 50 teachers from across the nation to participate in a three-day forum consisting of a series of educational, work group and plenary sessions on technical and policy issues concerning watershed protection. Our representatives were selected by Governor O'Bannon and are from Batesville High School in Batesville, Indiana. They will be talking with you after lunch today about the project that they'll be presenting at the summit in Maryland next month.

Another "Year of Clean Water" opportunity that I'd like to encourage your involvement in is National Water Monitoring Day on October 18th. This is a significant opportunity for every citizen to become involved on a local and national scale. National Water Monitoring Day is a nationwide event created to mark the 30th anniversary of the initial passage of the Clean Water Act. The main purpose of the event is to take a snapshot view of streams, lakes and coastal waters throughout the United States by inviting citizen monitors, established volunteer monitoring organizations and federal, state, Tribal and local monitoring program staff to evaluate conditions within their local watersheds.

Please check out IDEM's website for further information on how you can become involved with the testing of an Indiana body of water on October 18th.

I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you for a minute about IDEM's 2002 Annual State of the Environment Report. I am very excited and proud to announce that this year the SOE Report is now totally electronic. While this may not seem like much in today's fast-paced electronic world, it is actually a major accomplishment in our efforts to meet IDEM's mission of protecting Indiana's environment. It also allows us to serve the state's taxpayers in a fiscally responsible manner. By putting this report entirely on line, IDEM has been able to save over 2M sheets of paper – that's about 10.8 tons! By providing the report in electronic form, we have not only reduced the environmental impact of the report, it also enables the agency to provide you even more information about your environment 24 hours a day.

In closing, since we are primarily focusing on water issues today, I'd like to offer you some simple and painless ideas on how you can help reduce your impact on our Hoosier waterways.

1. Don't wash the car in the driveway. Instead take your car to a car wash facility. This will avoid dirty wash water from draining directly to our rivers and streams without first being treated.
2. Fix leaky faucets and always make sure you turn the water off completely. A dripping faucet can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water a month. That's 24,000 gallons of water each year!
3. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. When leaving the water running while brushing, the average person uses two gallons of water to brush their teeth!
4. Use low-flow faucets, toilets and showerheads.
5. Adopt a stream to clean up and keep beautiful
6. Water your flowers and garden by hand, either early in the morning or in the evening, and carefully monitor the amount of water you use.

Finally, a few housekeeping items to make today go smoothly...

Lunch will be served following the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence at 12:30 pm in the cafeteria of this building, which is located in the basement. We have reserved a section of the cafeteria for our group. Please have the lunch ticket that you received at registration handy when you arrive.

Restrooms are located beside the elevators at both ends of the conference center facility and in the atrium. Finally, we hope you'll stop by and visit our vendors in the exhibit hall, located across the hall from this auditorium, during your breaks and lunch hour. At the end of the day there will be an informal meet and greet session in the exhibit hall to give you the opportunity to gain some information from the vendors and hopefully talk to some of the presenters from throughout the day.

Again - welcome to the Governor's Conference on the Environment – I appreciate your participation in today's event and your commitment to Indiana's environment.

Now, I 'm happy to introduce Thomas Skinner, EPA's Region 5 Administrator. Tom is the first former state environmental commissioner to serve as Region 5 administrator. From January 1999 through half of 2001, he directed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and served in the cabinet of Governor George Ryan. Prior to that, Tom was a partner in the environmental law department of the Winston and Strawn law firm in Chicago for eight years. He was a special assistant to Illinois Governor James Thompson from 1988 until 1991.

Tom is an alumnus of Lawrence University and the Northwestern University School of Law. He is also the elected Village President of Lake Bluff, Ill. Please welcome Mr. Tom Skinner.

Next I'd like to introduce Beth Compton. Beth is Governor O'Bannon's executive assistant for environment and natural resources as well as deputy counsel. Beth graduated cum laude from the Indiana University School of Law. The Governor appointed her to head the Health Professions Bureau in May 2000. Before that, she had been with the attorney general's office since 1997, where she was section chief of the consumer protection division, focusing on medical licensing. She worked in private law practice from 1992 to 1997. We are honored that Beth could join us this morning. Beth....

Finally, I'd like to introduce to you, John Goss, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. John came to DNR as the nine-year head of the Indiana Division of Tourism. During his tenure there he also served on the Natural Resources Commission which oversees activities in the DNR. John has also served as chief of staff for then Lt. Governor O'Bannon and before that as deputy mayor to two mayors in Bloomington, Indiana. John is a life-long Hoosier with degrees in economics and public and environmental affairs from Indiana University.